

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /085 W
-----035851 221420Z /44

R 221135Z JUL 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2329
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
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AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY ANKARA BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK BY POUCH

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 MBFR VIENNA 0439

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD JULY 18-21

1. SUMMARY: AT THE FINAL INFORMAL SESSION OF THE TWELFTH ROUND
OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS ON JULY 19, EASTERN
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REPS SAID THEY WOULD CAREFULLY STUDY THE JULY 15 WESTERN DATA
DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL, BUT PROCEEDED TO GIVE A NEGATIVE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF IT. IN A STATEMENT DELIVERED AT THE
LAST PLENARY MEETING ON JULY 21, SOVIET REP TARASOV STRONGLY
ATTACKED THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH, SUGGESTED THAT THE WEST
MIGHT BE SEEKING TO SLOW DOWN THE TALKS AND ACCUSED THE WEST
OF TRYING TO LEAD THE DATA DISCUSSION INTO AN IMPENETRABLE

MASS OF DETAIL. SOVIET REP ALSO STATED THAT THE EAST HAD LONG AGO REJECTED THE DECEMBER 1975 WESTERN PROPOSALS AND CALLED UPON THE WEST TO NEGOTIATE ON THE BASIS OF THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 1976 COMPROMISE PROPOSAL AND TO AGREE TO A MANPOWER FREEZE IN THE INTERIM. THE END-OF-ROUND EASTERN PRESS STATEMENT CHARGED THAT THE WEST WAS UNABLE TO PROVE ITS ASSERTION OF A LARGE MANPOWER SUPERIORITY FAVORING THE EAST IN THE REDUCTION AREA AND THAT THE WEST SOUGHT INSTEAD TO PROBE THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF WARSAW PACT FORCES. WESTERN REPS AT THE JULY 19 INFORMAL SESSION AND THE CONCLUDING WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT STRESSED THAT MUTUALLY AGREED DATA WAS A NECESSARY CONDITION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A REDUCTION AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY

2. THE TWELFTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS ENDED THIS WEEK. DURING THE FINAL INFORMAL SESSION ON JULY 19, EASTERN REPS SAID THEY WOULD CAREFULLY STUDY THE JULY 15 WESTERN DATA DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL. THEY THEN WENT ON TO GIVE A NEGATIVE PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF IT. EASTERN REPS CLAIMED THE PROPOSAL WOULD NEEDLESSLY PROLONG THE DATA DISCUSSION BY OBLIGING PARTICIPANTS TO GO INTO ORGANIZATION DETAIL NOT RELATED TO REDUCTIONS AND THAT THE EASTERN PROPOSAL TO TABLE NATIONAL MANPOWER FIGURES FOR THE FORCES IN THE AREA OF EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT WAS A MORE EFFECTIVE WAY TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCES OF THE DATA DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WESTERN AND EASTERN DATA ON WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER. THEY NOTED THEY WERE WILLING TO PROVIDE AVERAGE MANNING LEVELS OF THE GROUND AND AIR FORCES
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OF EACH EASTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANT TO ASSIST THE WEST IN SEEING CLEARLY WHERE WESTERN ESTIMATES OF WARSAW PACT PERSONNEL STRENGTH HAD GONE WRONG. IN REVIEWING THE INCONCLUSIVE RESULTS OF THE DATA DISCUSSION TO DATE, EASTERN REPS CLAIMED THE WEST HAS FAILED TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIATING EVIDENCE FOR ITS ASSERTION OF AN EASTERN MANPOWER SUPERIORITY IN THE AREA.

3. WESTERN REPS POINTED OUT ALL PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT THE IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE OF THE DATA DISCUSSION WAS TO CLARIFY THE REASONS FOR THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WESTERN AND EASTERN FIGURES ON MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA AND THAT MORE DETAILED DATA WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR THIS PURPOSE. THEY EMPHASIZED THE NEAR CERTAINTY THAT A BREAKDOWN

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /085 W
-----036045 221419Z /41

R 221135Z JUL 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2330
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
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AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 3 MBFR VIENNA 0439

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

BEYOND THE NATIONAL TOTALS PROPOSED BY THE EAST WOULD
BE NECESSARY. THEY STATED THAT THE JULY 15 WESTERN
PROPOSAL WAS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN DISAGGREGATION
METHODS PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED BY EAST AND WEST AND
THAT IT AFFORDED AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO MOVE TOWARD MUTUALLY
AGREED DATA WHICH, EASTERN REPS APPARENTLY NOW RECOGNIZED,
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WAS A PREREQUISITE FOR ANY REDUCTION AGREEMENT.

4. DURING THE BALANCE OF THE SESSION, WESTERN AND
EASTERN REPS SUMMARIZED THE RESULTS OF THE ROUND FROM
THEIR RESPECTIVE POINTS OF VIEW. WESTERN REPS SAID
THAT THE EAST HAD MADE NO MOVE COMMENSURATE WITH THE
DECEMBER 1975 WESTERN PROPOSALS NOR HAD IT SHOWN ANY
WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT AN OUTCOME OF GENUINE MANPOWER

PARITY. MOREOVER, THE EAST WAS STILL SEEKING TO CONTRACTUALIZE ITS NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY IN MOST TYPES OF MAJOR ARMAMENTS AND STILL REFUSED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPORTANCE OF GEOGRAPHY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. EASTERN REPS MAINTAINED THAT THERE ALREADY WAS APPROXIMATE EQUALITY BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA. THEY LISTED A NUMBER OF ASPECTS OF THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH WHICH, THEY ALLEGED, DEPARTED FROM THE PARITY PRINCIPLE AND MADE CLEAR THEIR CONTINUED REJECTION OF THE WESTERN CONCEPT OF COLLECTIVE CEILINGS WITH SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS ON US AND SOVIET PERSONNEL. EASTERN REPS ALSO PRESENTED A RIGID RESTATEMENT OF THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE EASTERN POSITION.

5. THE LAST PLENARY MEETING OF THE ROUND WAS HELD ON JULY 21. SOVIET REP TARASOV AND US REP BOTH DELIVERED STATEMENTS. THE SOVIET PRESENTATION STRONGLY ATTACKED THE CENTRAL FEATURES OF THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH AND CHARGED THAT RECENT STATEMENTS BY WESTERN LEADERS CONSTITUTED AN ULTIMATUM TO THE EAST TO EITHER ACCEPT THE WESTERN PROPOSALS OR FACE A RENEWED ARMS RACE IN CENTRAL EUROPE UNDER IMPETUS OF THE INTRODUCTION OF SUCH NEW WESTERN WEAPONS AS THE CRUISE MISSILE AND NEUTRON WARHEAD. TARASOV FURTHER CHARGED THAT THE WEST

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APPEARED TO BE PUTTING THE BRAKES ON THE VIENNA TALKS AND WARNED THAT EASTERN PARTICIPANTS WOULD NOT GO ALONG WITH ANY WESTERN ATTEMPTS TO BY-PASS THE BULK OF THE AGREED SUBJECT MATTER AND TO CONCENTRATE THE NEGOTIATIONS ON, FOR EXAMPLE, STABILIZING AND OTHER CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES. SOVIET REP INDICATED THAT THE WEST SHOULD SUPPORT ITS ALLEGATIONS OF A WARSAW PACT MANPOWER SUPERIORITY WITH CONCRETE FIGURES. ALSO ON DATA, AND WITH AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE JULY 15 WESTERN DIS-AGGREGATION PROPOSAL, SOVIET REP CALLED FOR THE WEST TO TABLE NATIONAL FIGURES RATHER THAN SEEK TO LEAD THE DISCUSSION INTO AN IMPENETRABLE THICKET OF DETAILS. TARASOV STATED THAT CONTINUED WESTERN RELUCTANCE TO TABLE NATIONAL TOTALS GAVE RISE TO THE BELIEF THAT THE WEST WISHED TO SHIELD THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF WESTERN FORCES IN THE AREA FROM REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS. SOVIET REP MAINTAINED THAT THE EAST HAD LONG AGO REJECTED THE DECEMBER 1975 WESTERN PROPOSALS AND URGED THE WEST TO NEGOTIATE ON THE BASIS OF THE EAST'S COMPROMISE PROPOSAL OF FEBRUARY 1976 AND TO AGREE TO A MANPOWER FREEZE IN THE INTERIM.

6. IN HIS PLENARY STATEMENT, US REP REVIEWED THE STATUS

OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE STRESSED THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING A REDUCTION AGREEMENT DEPENDED UPON A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION TO THE DATA DISCUSSION. HE NOTED THAT THE WEST HAD RECENTLY PROPOSED MEANS FOR CARRYING THE DATA DISCUSSION FORWARD. US REP WENT ON TO HIGHLIGHT THE MAJOR DEFECTS OF THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH. HE STATED THAT A PERSONNEL FREEZE, AS PROPOSED BY THE EAST, WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST IN THAT IT WOULD CONTRACTUALIZE THE EXISTING EASTERN SUPERIORITY IN MILITARY MANPOWER. US REP POINTED OUT THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 1976 PROPOSAL

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03
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R 221135 Z JUL 77

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2331

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY ANKARA BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK BY POUCH

S E C R E T SECTION 3 OF 3 MBFR VIENNA 0439

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

LEFT INTACT THE OUTCOME ENVISAGED IN THE EAST'S ORIGINAL PROPOSALS AND COULD IN NO WAY BE CONSIDERED A MOVE

COMMENSURATE WITH THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WEST'S DECEMBER 1975 INITIATIVE. US REP SAID THE EAST SHOULD DROP ITS INEQUITABLE AND UNREALISTIC APPROACH AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WESTERN PROPOSALS PROVIDE A REASONABLE BASIS FOR REACHING AN AGREEMENT.

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7. THE PREPARED EASTERN STATEMENT AT THE REGULAR END-OF-ROUND PRESS CONFERENCE REFERRED TO THE FAILURE OF WESTERN PARTICIPANTS TO PROVE THEIR GROUNDLESS CLAIMS CONCERNING AN ALLEGED, LARGE MILITARY SUPERIORITY FAVORING THE WARSAW PACT AND SAID THAT THE WEST WAS TRYING INSTEAD TO PROBE THE DETAILS OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF EASTERN FORCES. THE SAME STATEMENT ALSO BRIEFLY REFERRED TO THE FAILURE OF THE WEST TO RESPOND CONSTRUCTIVELY TO THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL AND CITED NATO INTEREST IN THE NEUTRON BOMB AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE VALIDITY OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE ALL NUCLEAR ELEMENTS IN COMPREHENSIVE ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS. THE MENTION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON PROVOKED SEVERAL FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FROM REPORTERS, ONE OF WHICH WAS DIRECTED AT THE WESTERN SPOKESMAN (NETHERLANDS REP DE VOS) WHO MADE CLEAR THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO FINAL DECISIONS AS REGARDS PRODUCTION OR POSSIBLE DEPLOYMENT OF THE WEAPON.

8. IN EAST-WEST BILATERAL EXCHANGES DURING THE LAST WEEK, EASTERN REPS REINFORCED THE NEGATIVE EASTERN APPRAISAL OF THE NEW WESTERN DATA PROPOSAL. THE OUTLINE FOR THE JULY 22 AD HOC GROUP ORAL REPORT TO THE NAC, WHICH THE GROUP APPROVED JULY 21, DESCRIBED THE UNPROMISING NATURE OF INITIAL EASTERN REACTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL. THE SAME REPORT CONCLUDED THAT THE GROUP, NEVERTHELESS, CONSIDERED IT THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IN THE NEXT ROUND TO PRESS THE EAST FOR A MORE POSITIVE RESPONSE.

9. THE THIRTEENTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA TALKS IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 26. RESOR

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR
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Type: TE
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